

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 DPW-01 IO-12 RSR-01 INRE-00 /115 W

----- 107777

P R 040735 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9606

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5590

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SPOT REPORT MR 1: COMMUNIST

RELEASE 58 ADDITIONAL RVN POW'S IN QUANG NAM

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG ON 4 APR 1973. BEING
REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION.

QUOTE

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PREPARED BY THE QUANG NGAI POLOFF:

1. ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 3, THE NLF RELEASED AN ADDITIONAL
58 ARVN POWS FROM A DETENTION CAMP BELIEVED TO BE LOCATED SOME-
WHERE IN SOUTHERN NGHIA HANH DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO EIGHT POWS
INTERVIEWED BY THE REPORTING OFFICER AS THEY WERE ARRIVING AT
NGHIA HANH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, THE 58 MEN RELEASED TODAY HAD
PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD BY THEIR VC CAPTORS THAT THEY WOULD BE RE-
LEASED ALONG WITH 200 OTHER CAPTIVES ON MARCH 25. LATER, HOWEVER,
THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED WAS TOO LARGE AND
WERE TAKEN BACK INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONF.
THE PRISONERS SAID THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE NOT ABLE TO FEED THEM
WELL AND THAT THEIR DIET, LIKE THAT OF THEIR VC CAPTORS, CON-
SISTED LARGELY OF CORN AND WHATEVER WILD MOUNTAIN VEGETATION THEY
COULD FIND. THEY WERE TOLD ONLY YESTERDAY THAT THEY WOULD BE
RELEASED THIS MORNING. THEY WERE THEN DIVIDED INTO SMALL GROUPS
OF BETWEEN EIGHT AND FIFTEEN MEN EACH AND SENT IN DIFFERENT
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DIRECTIONS, SOME TO NGHIA HANH, OTHER TO DUC PHO AND MO DUC.

2. AMONG THOSE RELEASED WED SEVERAL CAPTURED DURING THQ COMMUNIST ASSAULT ON SA HUYNH. ONE MEMBER OF THE 117 TH RF BATTALION THAT HAD OCCUPIED FB CHARLIE BROWN OVERLOOKING SA HUYNH SAID THAT A FEW DAYS AFTER THE ASSAULT BEGAN, 2 ND DIVISION CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL KIEU MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL HELICOPTER RESCUE ATTEMPT. AFTER RESCUE BECAME IMPOSSIBLE, THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE AUTHORIZED THEIR TROOPS TO GIVE THEMSELVES UP IF THEY WISHED. AT LEAST THREE OF THE OFFICERS THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE RATHER THAN FACE CAPTURE AND TORTURE.

3. APPROXIMATELY 2 00 MORE PRISONERS ARE STILL BEING HELD FOR EVENTUAL RELEASE. ACCORDING TO THOSE RELEASED TODAY, MANY OF THE POWS DIED IN CAPTIVITY FROM DISEASE AND MALNUTRITION.

BROWN UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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